

## REMARKS

Claims 1-27, 29 and 30 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-20, 22 and 30 have been allowed.

Claim 27 is hereby cancelled.

Claim 25 stands objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim. Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form so as to be allowable.

Claims 21, 23, 24, 26 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,046,279 (Rösler).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 23, 24, 26 and 29 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Rodriguez for the courtesies extended him at the interview on August 17, 2006. During the interview, it was pointed out to the Examiner that the finality of the outstanding action is inappropriate in that the basis for rejection of unamended claims was changed.

Additionally, amendments as made to claim 21 were discussed. The Examiner acknowledged that these amendments would place claim 21 in allowable condition.

The Examiner also acknowledged that Rösler does not teach or suggest a taper as is required in claim 26 on at least one of the radially inwardly facing surface and radially outwardly facing surface. The Examiner tentatively agreed that claim 26 is allowable.

The remaining claims, 23, 24 and 29, each depends from claim 21 and recites further significant limitations to further distinguish over the prior art.

Entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 21, 23, 24, 26 and 29, and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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